

SENATE RESOLUTION 256

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to recognize the State of Israel upon the occasion of the nation's sixtieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine and create a Jewish state; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel, and the United States Government established full diplomatic relations with Israel; and

WHEREAS, the desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern state of Israel is an outgrowth of the existence of the historic kingdom of Israel established in the Land of Israel 3,000 years ago, with the city of Jerusalem as its capital; and

WHEREAS, for more than 2,000 years, there have been continuous Jewish presence and residence in the land comprising the modern state of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the modern state of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people followed the slaughter of more than 6,000,000 European Jews during the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, since its founding sixty years ago, the modern state of Israel has built a nation, forged a new and dynamic democratic society, and created a thriving economic, political, cultural, and intellectual life despite the heavy costs of war, terrorism, and diplomatic and economic boycotts against the people of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the people of Israel have established a vibrant, pluralistic, democratic political system, including freedom of speech, association, and religion; a vigorously free press; free, fair and open elections; the rule of law; a fully independent judiciary; and other democratic principles and practices; and

WHEREAS, Israel has developed some of the world's leading universities, and, in recognition of the nation's immense contributions to the global community's advancement, eight Israeli citizens have been awarded the Nobel Prize; and

WHEREAS, Israel has developed an advanced, entrepreneurial economy; the nation is among the world's leaders in the high-tech industry and is at the forefront of research and development in the field of renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, Israel regularly sends humanitarian aid, search-and-rescue teams, mobile hospitals, and other emergency supplies to help victims of disasters around the world, including the 1994 Rwandan civil war, the 1998 bombing of the United States Embassy in Kenya, the 1999 earthquakes in Turkey, the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 hurricanes along the southern coast of the United States, and the 2007 fires in Greece; and

WHEREAS, Israel has absorbed millions of Jews from countries throughout the world and fully integrated them into Israeli society; and

WHEREAS, Israel has defended itself bravely against repeated terrorist and military attacks since its independence; and

WHEREAS, successive leaders of Israel have sought to achieve peace with Israel's Arab neighbors; Israel has established peaceful bilateral relations with neighboring Egypt and Jordan and has expressed its desire to establish peaceful relations with all Arab states; and

WHEREAS, for six decades, the United States and Israel have maintained a special relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect, and this body wishes to seize this golden opportunity to recognize and to reaffirm Israel's status as a strong and trusted ally and an important strategic partner for the United States; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize and honor the State of Israel on the occasion of the nation's sixtieth anniversary and commend the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a modern state and a pluralistic, democratic society, as we extend our best wishes to the State of Israel and the Israeli people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.